

Pam
Africa - West
Liberia

242

Lutheran Centennial in Liberia



1860
1960

President William
V. S. Tubman
offers congratu-
lations to the
Rev. Ezra D. Keller,
President of the
Lutheran Church
in Liberia, in
recognition of
100 years of
Lutheran
missionary work
in Liberia.



in recognition

The Lutheran Mission in Liberia has been dedicated to the all important task of proclaiming the saving grace of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to men and women in all walks of life.

God has been the Refuge and Strength of a host of missionaries and Liberian Christians who have responded to Christ's commission to be His faithful witnesses. Throughout 100 years of Christian Faith and Life in this land, the Lutheran Mission has enjoyed the friendship and encouragement of the Governments in Liberia.

A strong advocate for the advance of Christian teaching in Liberia is the Honorable William V. S. Tubman, President of Liberia. President Tubman has demonstrated his sincerity of purpose through his dedication and churchmanship.

**ALL THE GLORY AND HONOR IS GIVEN TO GOD, THE
FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.**



The new St. Peter's Lutheran Church and school in Monrovia-Sinkor serves Liberians and others living in Monrovia.



Since 1952 the Mission House in Monrovia-Sinkor has been the business center of the Lutheran Church and Mission in Liberia. As early as 1923 a Lutheran business office was opened in Monrovia.



Pastor H. J. Currens, president of the Lutheran Mission, confers regularly with Pastor Ezra D. Keller, president of the Lutheran Church, on mission and church matters. Pastor Keller has been Church president since 1955. A new constitution, which is to place major responsibility in the church, is being drafted.



The Emma V. Day School for Girls at Harrisburg became the high school and Lutheran Training Institute for men and women in 1947.



Reed Memorial Church near Millsburg serves the general community where the first Lutheran congregation was organized February 17, 1861.



Since May 1933 Day Memorial Church has ministered to the Harrisburg area along the St. Paul River.



Pastor Ezra D. Keller of Dobli Island commends members of a village congregation on their building fund program.



Mrs. Ezra D. Keller, a registered nurse, is in charge of the dispensary at Dobli Island.



Lutheran work opened at Dobli Island in 1908. A wide-spread area is served by the school, congregation, dispensary and literacy program.



With the opening of a new modern dispensary in 1959, communities within the Sanoyea area are assured of the same Christian merciful care which prompted the first Lutheran medical work to begin here in 1921.



At Sanoyea Lutheran work started in a mud-stick chapel in 1917. Since 1944 worship has been held in Curran Memorial Church.



Orphaned Liberian children have received loving care at the Sanoyea nursery from its beginning in 1939.



First opened in 1925, the Lutheran elementary school at Sanoyea offers four grades.



Mrs. Joseph Diggs, a registered nurse, supervises the Belefantai dispensary where Lutherans began medical treatment in 1939.



A boarding school, first opened at Belefantai in the mid-thirties by Liberian teachers, has grown to be a fine school of the Lutheran Church.



The Lutheran congregation at Belefantai, under the leadership of the Rev. Joseph Diggs, completed its permanent-style church in 1952.



Standing at the center of Zorzor town, St. John's Lutheran Church is dedicated to the proclamation of God's Holy Word in this populous center.



Medical care, self-help projects and spiritual nurture are provided daily at the Zorzor leper village under Lutheran auspices.



Beginning in a mud-stick hut in 1925, the Lutheran school at Zorzor moved into modern buildings where a Liberian staff teaches eight grades.

A 3-year nurses' training program at Zorzor hospital prepares men and women to be certified as registered nurses by the Liberia Board of Nurses.



Pastor H. J. Currens, Bishop B. W. Harris and Bishop P. A. Taylor of the Lutheran, Episcopal and Methodist Churches in Liberia are conferring on plans for the proposed co-operative-mission Phebe Hospital and Nurses' Training School to be erected in the Gbarnga-Suacoco area.



Phebe Hospital and Nurses' Training School, established at Harrisburg in 1921 and moved to Zorzor in 1945, are part of an enlarged medical program now being offered by Lutherans at Curran Memorial Hospital at Zorzor.







GUINEA

**LUTHERAN CHURCH
STATISTICS**

- Baptized Christians in 107 towns
- Organized Congregations—37
- Pastors, Evangelists, Teachers,
Nurses, Literacy Workers—101*
- Elementary Schools—17
- High School—1
- School Enrollment over 1,000
- Hospital (25 beds)—1
- Nurses' Training School—1
- Dispensaries—5
- Hospital Patients in 1959—4,132
- Dispensary Patients
in 1959—79,254

Curran
Memorial
Hospital

KORZOR

Salayea

Lutheran
Training
Institute

Nimba
(iron)

SELEFANAI

Fokwele

barnga

sed Phebe Hospital
Site

IVORY
COAST



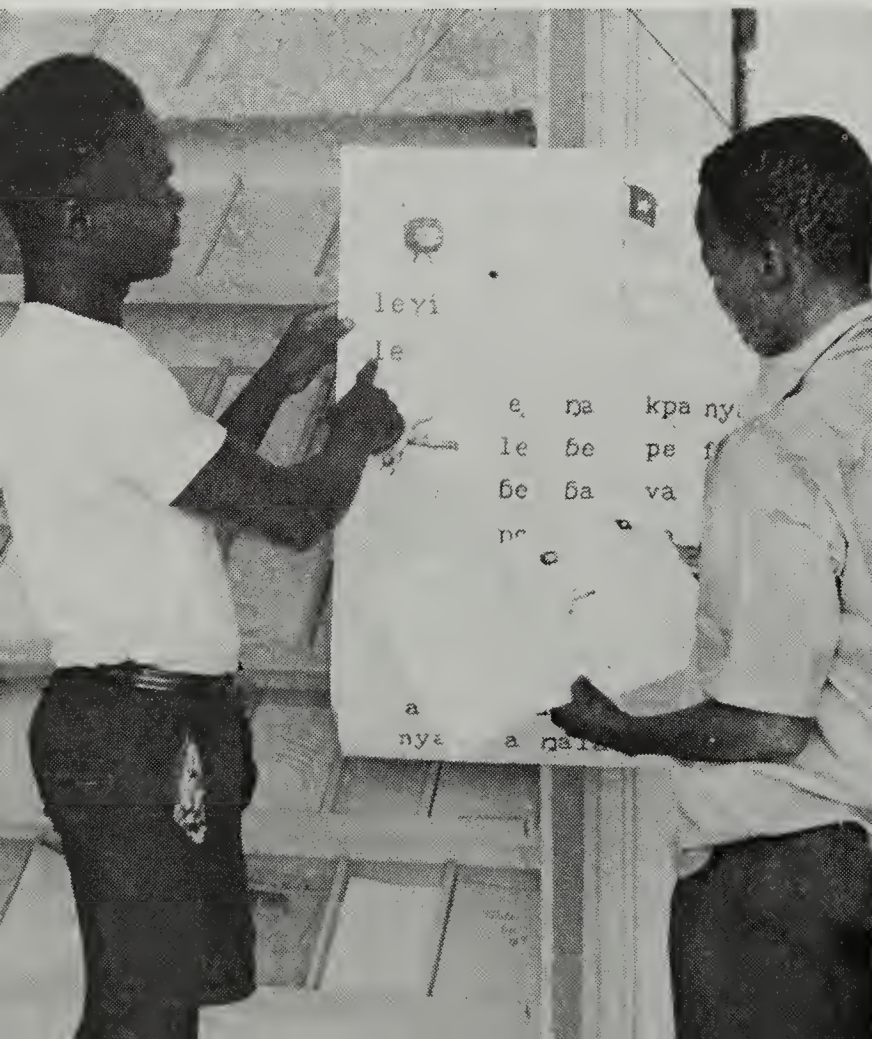
Worshipping in a new church, St. John's Lutheran congregation at Totota ministers to the community and a large school. Lutheran work opened here in 1945.



First opened in 1946, and now housed in modern buildings, the Lutheran school at Totota has grown to be the Church's largest eighth-grade school.

The new literacy center at Totota was opened in 1959. It is committed to supply God's Word to the Kpelle people.

Mr. David Mulbah, a registered nurse, has been in charge of the Totota dispensary since its opening in 1946.





Faculty and students conduct Christian worship regularly in the school chapel at L.T.I.



Both men and women enjoy pleasant living and study facilities at L.T.I.

A co-educational school, L.T.I. offers attractive dining and recreational quarters.

Opened near Salayea in February 1958, the new Lutheran Training Institute and high school have classrooms and living facilities to accommodate 200 men and women on a campus consisting of 25 permanent buildings.





Specialized courses on the Bible and related subjects prepare students to become full-time evangelists and pastors.



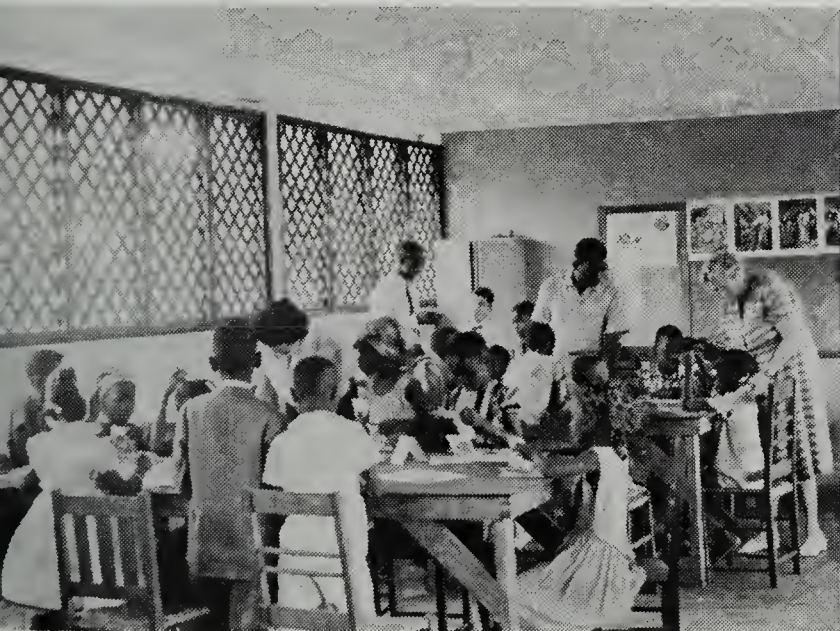
Men and women at L.T.I. are afforded a variety of vocational, general interest and sports activities.



An increasing number of books and periodicals are added annually to the library at L.T.I.



Lutherans at Fokwele dedicated their new chapel in 1957.



Interest and attendance are on the increase in Sunday schools of the Lutheran Church.



The Loma literacy center at Wozi produces literature and a weekly newspaper with a Christian outlook.



When Fissebu town burned in 1959, the newly erected Lutheran church was spared.

Mr. Roland Payne of the Zorzor hospital staff will begin the study of theology in Waterloo, Canada, as a scholarship student of the Lutheran Church, beginning the fall semester of 1960. Mrs. Payne plans to accompany her husband.



In several congregations young people carry on effective programs through Luther League groups.

The Lutheran Church and Mission provide scholarship opportunities overseas to qualified Lutheran students in specialized fields of study. During 1959-60 Mr. Melton S. Clinton has been a special student in education at Pennsylvania State University.



The Lutheran Mission has operated a 4-seater plane since August, 1953 to expedite travel of personnel and supplies to inland communities.



The Rev. Byron Traub, an ordained pastor of the Lutheran Church, is presently Director of Literacy of the Fundamental Education Bureau of the Department of Public Instruction in the Government of Liberia.



Pastor John Clinton has been serving in the parish ministry of the Lutheran Church since his ordination in 1939.

Highlights of 100 years of Lutheran Christian Mission in Liberia.

- ▶ The Rev. Morris Officer and Mr. Henry Heigard established the first Lutheran Mission station at Millsburg, 25 miles inland, near the St. Paul River, April 27, 1860, naming it Muhlenburg.
- ▶ The first Lutheran elementary school opened within the first year. The first Lutheran congregation was organized February 17, 1861.
- ▶ Civil War in the United States caused the flow of missionary forces and funds to be decreased from 1861-1873.
- ▶ Mr. Officer died in the United States in 1874, aged 51. That year Dr. David and Emily (Emma) Day arrived in Liberia to begin a noteworthy work, which continued beyond his death in 1897. Their three children are buried in Liberia.
- ▶ Dr. Day expanded the Muhlenberg Boys' School along agricultural and industrial lines, organized new congregations, selected, trained and ordained David Davidson and Joseph Stewart to be the first Liberian Lutheran pastors—1885 and 1892 respectively.
- ▶ The Emma V. Day School for Girls opened at Harrisburg, October 2, 1898.
- ▶ By 1900 a Forward Movement of missionary effort was attempted, consisting chiefly in establishing schools in villages 25 miles apart, following the St. Paul River valley to the Guinea border. Lack of experienced workers and the newness of the venture among uninformed tribal villagers brought this thrust inland to a close in 1911.
- ▶ The Rev. J. C. Pedersen took up residence at Dobli Island in 1908, 65 miles up the St. Paul River from Harrisburg, opening work among the Kpelle people.
- ▶ Sanoyea became the third Lutheran center inland when Pastor J. D. Curran took up residence in 1917.
- ▶ The fourth Lutheran center in the hinterland was opened at Zorzor among the Loma people in 1923, the Rev. G. C. Leonard becoming the first resident missionary.
- ▶ Belefanaï became the most inland Lutheran outpost among the Kpelle people in 1932 when Pastor David Dagle moved there.

► Sporadic attempts to reduce the Kpelle and Loma languages to written form began as early as 1913 when Missionary G. C. Leonard was assigned to Kpelle language study. The following year Dr. Deitrich Westermann, a linguist from Germany, was brought to assist Mr. Leonard in preparing a grammar and lexicon. After World War II Dr. William Welmers, a linguist from the United States, came to revise the Kpelle grammar. Dr. Wesley Sadler, a Lutheran missionary, reduced the Loma language to written form within the last twenty years.

► Beginning with an enrollment of three nurses, Lutherans began the first training school for nurses to be established in Liberia at the 34-bed Phebe Hospital which opened at Harrisburg in 1921.

► The Muhlenberg Boys' School and the Emma V. Day Girls' School at Harrisburg were merged in 1946. The same year the Lutheran Training Institute was opened there to initiate a new training program for evangelists, teachers and prospective pastors in the church. In 1947 the first year of high school was begun. The Honorable William V. S. Tubman, the President of Liberia, was the honored speaker at the first high school graduation which took place in November 1950. Five students completed the course.

► In the first decade of its existence, the high school has graduated 84 students, 63 men and 21 women. Twenty-eight have been awarded mission scholarships for college study.

► Worship services under Lutheran auspices were first held in Monrovia in 1938. On June 5, 1949 St. Peter's Lutheran congregation was organized. Since June 2, 1957 this congregation has worshipped in a beautiful modern church located in Sinkor.

► Mrs. Norma Bloomquist Brookhart, Lutheran missionary until her marriage in 1959, was the first full-time Literacy Director in the Government of Liberia.

► In recent years Lutheran delegates from Liberia have attended denominational and interdenominational gatherings in Europe, North America and Africa. In September 1960 three Lutheran representatives will attend the second All-Africa Lutheran Conference to be held in Madagascar.

► Plans for the new Phebe Hospital and Nurses' Training School to be located at Suacoco are moving forward. The Government of Liberia has displayed a lively interest in this cooperative mission medical development of the Lutherans, Episcopalians and Methodists by granting 300 acres of land and by pledging \$75,000 toward the construction which is estimated to cost \$950,000.



The Rev. Ezra D. Keller, president of the Lutheran Church in Liberia, was the liturgist for the opening worship of the Lutheran World Federation Third Assembly on August 15, 1957 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Bishop Lajos Ordass of Hungary delivered the keynote sermon to more than 11,000 persons.

The future of the Lutheran Church in Liberia, along with that of over **one million** fellow Lutherans in **Africa**, who are a part of the Lutheran Church around the world—**eighty million strong**—depends on the unswerving faith and loyalty to the witness which our Lord requires of every Christian.

..... **AFRICA • ASIA • EUROPE • NORTH AMERICA**
SOUTH AMERICA • ISLANDS OF THE SEAS

